

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 443  
By Wood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Birchwood  
Coonhunters Association, Inc. on the occasion  
of its 40th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those organizations that, through their commitment to wildlife preservation, hunting, and breed improvement, have beneficially impacted the lives of many Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Birchwood Coonhunters Association, Inc. showcase and preserve vital parts of our Southern heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Birchwood Coonhunters Association was created in 1963 by fifteen hunters who sought to restore the sport in the area; an old, abandoned house was converted into a clubhouse for the organization, and the members of the group began to train and teach their dogs by way of hunts at night and field and water events during the day; and

WHEREAS, as the club and sport developed, the United Kennel Club began to recognize and sanction the organization, and the organization's prey were augmented by

numbers brought in from Texas; preservation measures were initiated to protect the population; and

WHEREAS, there are now more than 80 members of the Birchwood Coonhunters Association with more than 100 dogs; at the request of the United Kennel Club, the Birchwood club hosts regional and semifinal championship events; and

WHEREAS, not only has the club preserved the tradition and heritage, but they have also contributed to the education, growth, and economic prosperity of their community; and

WHEREAS, the Birchwood Coonhunters Association has hosted six Alhambra Shrine Benefit Hunts with thousands of dollars in proceeds going directly to the crippled children's fund and local schools and charities; and

WHEREAS, the club encourages family participation, helps to maintain an appreciation for the outdoors, and brings recognition to the several breeds of specially-trained dogs that have aided in preserving this sport; and

WHEREAS, the club leaders and men like Jesse Roark are keeping tradition alive; thanks to their dedication, the tradition lives on through the distant baying of hunting hounds that still rings out across the moonlit woodlands of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate the Birchwood Coonhunters Association, Inc. on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, salute its commitment to upholding traditional ways of life, and wish its member the best in their every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.